

## Gallaudet Fact—

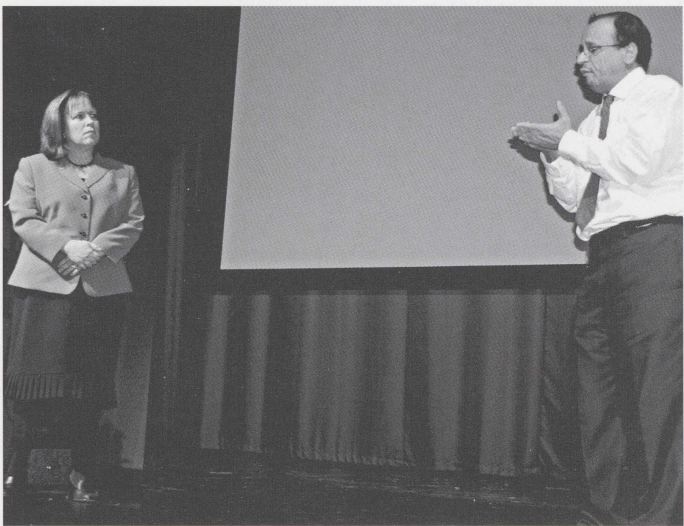
Q: What special group of people, other than Gallaudet presidents and their families, has lived in House One?

Answer on page 4.

## I. King Jordan Lecture Series



Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon will make a presentation in the series on April 20. See the article on this page for details.



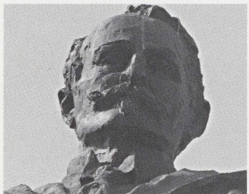
Abdulaziz Al-Obaid, an undergraduate student from Saudi Arabia, makes a point about the needs of international students on campus to Provost Jane Fernandes during a March 10 Town Hall meeting in Foster Auditorium. The campus-wide meeting was held to solicit input on the draft diversity strategic plan, a document that reflects Gallaudet's goals to be an inclusive, visu-centric university where every individual is respected, included, and valued. The meeting was led by President Jordan, Vice President for Administration and Finance Paul Kelly, and Dr. Fernandes. The audience members were asked to give their thoughts and ideas on whether the draft plan begins to address racism and autism at Gallaudet. Campus input is crucial, the administrators said, in order to refine the plan and ensure that it reflects community perspectives. In addition to the Town Hall, input was collected by the diversity fellows until March 31 by email or in writing and at a series of 10 feedback sessions that took place March 15 to 31. The Board of Trustees will have an opportunity to approve a final plan at its May meeting.

## IN THIS ISSUE



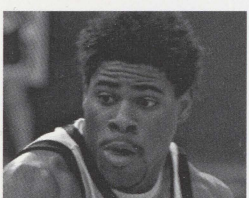
### Administration & Finance

Josephine Bias Robinson will be the mistress of ceremonies at the 23rd annual GCRC Awards and Recognition Program.



### Roving Reporter

Edward Miner Gallaudet shares his favorite April Fool's trick.



### Student Affairs

Robert Haney, Jr. named CAC Player of the Year.



Thomas Hauser, accounting major, at the Career Center's Internship and Jobs Fair on March 7 at the Kellogg Conference Hotel.

On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff  
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## President Jordan updates campus on PART Process

(Note: The following is a March 21 email from President Jordan to the campus community.)

"... As I stated in my message to the campus last month, Gallaudet received an erroneous rating through the Office of Management and Budget's [OMB] Program Assessment Rating Tool [PART]. All programs that receive federal funding are subject to review by the PART process, which in our case combined evaluations of oversight of federal support for the University by the Department of Education and of Gallaudet's programs.

"I am protesting this rating to both the Department of Education and OMB. I based my objections on two key factors: the virtually total exclusion of Gallaudet from the evalua-

tion process and the misinterpretation of Gallaudet University's mission by focusing only on a small part of Gallaudet's work, thereby ignoring many positive indicators about the undergraduate program, the graduate school, and the Clerc Center. For example, while highlighting our reported job placement rate for recent bachelor's degree graduates as 69%, the PART failed to highlight that 35% of our graduates continue their education during the year following their graduation. The report also failed to take into account our long range surveys of all alumni that show positive career outcomes during the full working lives of our graduates and attainment of advanced degrees at a rate that greatly exceeds that of hearing bachelor's degree recipients.

"The University developed a detailed critique of the process and its outcome that I sent to the Department of Education and to Robert Shea, director of the OMB office responsible for conducting PART processes. Mr. Shea and I then met on February 28 to discuss Gallaudet's position and, as a result of that meeting, I recently received a letter from him indicating OMB's willingness to conduct a reassessment of Gallaudet.

"Gallaudet is now in discussions with the Department of Education and OMB to determine the time frame for the reassessment and to ensure that this time the University will be appropriately involved in the process. I will keep the campus community informed as this process moves forward." ■

## Panel presentations show the vast legacy and spirit of DPN

Deaf President Now (DPN) not only brought about sweeping changes at Gallaudet, but also across the country and around the globe. On March 7, five panelists—scholars and activists for change in the deaf community—illustrated the movement's impact at the panel discussion, "The Legacy of DPN," part of the I. King Jordan Lecture Series.

In her introduction, Provost Jane Fernandes noted that the "unusual and public way" that Dr. Jordan became president of Gallaudet as a result of DPN "created a responsibility for Dr. Jordan that most college presidents do not have—that of international role model and spokesperson for the deaf community and for the disability community."

The panel included Dr. Sharon Barnartt, a professor in the Sociology Department; Dr. Cristina Berdichevsky, associate professor in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Ph.D. candidate and visiting researcher Goedele De Clerck; and undergraduate student Alvaro Jimenez. Professor Emeritus Yerker Andersson moderated.

Before starting the discussion, Dr. Andersson described his own memory of DPN. He was a professor at Gallaudet at the time, and recalled the locked gates when he and his wife drove to campus on the first day. That was when he real-

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The DPN panel included, from left: Dr. Cristina Berdichevsky, associate professor in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Dr. Sharon Barnartt, a professor in the Sociology Department; Professor Emeritus Yerker Andersson (moderator); undergraduate student Alvaro Jimenez; and Ph.D. candidate and visiting researcher Goedele De Clerck.

## Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon to make a presentation in I. King Jordan Lecture Series

Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, an acclaimed singer, composer, producer, author, and scholar, will make a presentation in the I. King Jordan Lecture Series on April 20 at noon in the Kellogg Conference Hotel's Swindells Auditorium.

Johnson Reagon, who will receive an honorary degree from the University at this year's Commencement exercises, will give a talk entitled "Song Sight: The Benefits of Sign to a Hearing Person."

In 1973, Johnson Reagon founded Sweet Honey in the Rock, an a cappella women's

group based in Washington, D.C. For more than 40 years, beginning with her participation in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, she has been a major cultural voice for justice and freedom, singing, teaching, and speaking out on the challenges of racism, women's and children's rights, peace, and respect for all cultures. She was one of the first musicians to include deaf and hard of hearing people and American Sign Language interpreters in her group's performances.

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## Administration & Finance

### GCRC slates awards, recognition program

The Gallaudet Community Relations Council (GCRC) will hold its 23rd Annual Awards and Recognition Program in the Kellogg Conference Hotel on April 8 from 6 to 8 p.m.



Josephine Bias Robinson

The theme of this year's program is "Building Relationships to Strengthen Community," and it will feature President Jordan as the keynote speaker. Josephine Bias Robinson, director of the Federal

Office of Community Services (within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), will be the mistress of ceremonies.

The program will recognize individuals, organizations, and businesses that have made significant contributions to improve the quality of life for Near Northeast residents. Performances by local artists will also be a highlight of the evening.

Julia Bishop-Pitt, who retired in 2004 after many years as Gallaudet's director of Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action, and served as liaison between the President's Office and the GCRC, will receive the Distinguished Gallaudet Community Relations Council Award.

A full buffet reception will follow the program. Donations are \$12 for adults and \$8 for students. Please purchase tickets in advance by calling the Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance, x5075.

#### eTime training for Payroll

Supervisors and timekeepers: Are you tired of filling out paper worksheets and timecards? Good news: Gallaudet is moving one step closer to a paperless payroll system. Effective with the pay period beginning May 15, Gallaudet will begin using online worksheets and time cards

for all employees (including student workers). All supervisors and timekeepers in each department will need to attend a training session to use the new system. Many PAF/payroll timelines will change and they will have to know the new procedures.

Training dates and times are as follows:

Session	Date and Time
1	Mon., April 10, 9 a.m. – noon
2	Tues., April 11, 9 a.m. – noon
3	Tues., April 11, 1 – 4 p.m.
4	Wed., April 12, 9 a.m. – noon
5	Thurs., April 13, 9 a.m. – noon
6	Thurs., April 13, 1 – 4 p.m.
7	Mon., April 24, 9 a.m. – noon
8	Mon., April 24, 1 – 4 p.m.
9	Tues., April 25, 9 a.m. – noon
10	Tues., April 25, 1 – 4 p.m.
11	Wed., April 26, 9 a.m. – noon
12	Wed., April 26, 1 – 4 p.m.
13	Thurs., April 27, 9 a.m. – noon
14	Thurs., April 27, 1 – 4 p.m.
15	Fri., April 28, 9 a.m. – noon

Each session is limited to 14 participants and will be held in College Hall, Room 406. Please email erin.cohen@gallaudet.edu with three preferred dates and time. Erin will confirm your enrollment in one of the sessions. Clerc Center employees will be trained separately, so do not enroll in one of these sessions.

After the training supervisors and timekeepers will be able to electronically track employees' regular time, overtime, and leave, run reports, and view historical data. Every two weeks the supervisor will approve the worksheets electronically. Departments will need to be able to train temporary workers and students on how to access and use the online time-card.

(Note: If you currently do not fill out a time card, your time will be kept automatically. You will submit leave request slips to your supervisor as usual.)



Dr. Deborah Tannen greets Wednesday Luria, coordinator of prospective graduate students in the Graduate Enrollment Office, at a book signing for Tannen's book, *You're Wearing THAT? Understanding Mothers and Daughters in Conversation*, that followed her March 9 campus presentation.

### Dr. Tannen addresses communication issues at I. King Jordan Lecture Series presentation

There is perhaps no bond more special than the one that exists between mother and daughter: a trusted friend and confidant to share life's ups and downs, innermost feelings, and incidents both weighty and trivial. But even a seemingly innocuous comment from either party can have disastrous results, causing bewilderment, frustration, and bruised feelings.

The root of the problem goes back to the ways boys and girls learn to communicate as toddlers, according to Dr. Deborah Tannen, university professor in the Linguistics Department at Georgetown University and the best selling author of a series of books on her research into the ways people communicate. Her latest book, *You're Wearing THAT? Understanding Mothers and Daughters in Conversation*, is on the *New York Times* Best Sellers list. Tannen presented some of her findings on March 9 to an overflow crowd at Swindells Auditorium. Her appearance at Gallaudet was sponsored by the William and Ruth Schaefer Endowment and served as the third installment in the I. King Jordan Lecture Series.

Tannen explained that her research is a socio-linguistic approach to the ways people communicate. She records conversations and determines why and how they go wrong. Her first book, *That's Not What I Meant*, looks into how people get and give the wrong impression. A chapter of that book addressing miscommunication between genders got a lot of attention from readers, leading to her next book, *You Just Don't Understand*, which was on the *New York Times* Best Sellers list for nearly four years and has been translated into 26 languages. Having developed a loyal cadre of readers, one topic that Tannen's audience wanted to know more about was how mothers and daughters talk and why the relationship is so fraught with complexities. The answer, said Tannen, is "because we're both women!"

Video clips of children at play that Tannen screened for the audience showed little girls forming friendships with each other through talking, striving to find common traits in their lives. Most girls want their lives to be inconspicuous—to stand out is interpreted as being controlling, when what they want is to fit in with the group, said Tannen. Seeking to be as diplomatic as possible in getting what they want, girls convey their needs subtly and indirectly. The video revealed that boys' methods of making friends are quite the opposite: they become acquainted through activities, then try to

establish dominance through one-upmanship with their peers. As they grow, they seek to stand out from the crowd and make their wants known by being direct—or indirect, but in much different ways than girls.

The difference in these communication styles is, predictably, significant when men and women interact, but it also has an impact on the outcome of conversations between mothers and daughters. The biggest complaint that Tannen has observed by mothers about talking with their daughters is that they often are not forthcoming in sharing information about important matters. In these instances, mothers feel that their opinions aren't valued, when in fact, daughters usually say that they simply don't want to worry them.

Daughters main complaint about their mothers, said Tannen, is that they are too critical. Mothers defend themselves by complaining that their daughters are overly sensitive; mothers say they are trying to be helpful with their comments, but their words are taken the wrong way. This trend holds particularly true, said Tannen, when the subject involves what she calls "The Big Three": hair, clothes, and weight.

Conversations about these and other topics go beneath the surface and conjure

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## Ask Aunt Sophie

Dear Aunt Sophie,

Do you know about the GallyNet listserv that everyone's buzzing about lately? Do you read it? I think that sometimes the topics discussed are really lame, but other times they're very interesting and thought-provoking. My supervisor doesn't think employees should be allowed to contribute to GallyNet during work hours or from Gallaudet computers. Do you agree?

GallyNet Fan

Dear Fan,

Certainly Auntie is familiar with GallyNet. You think I live in a yurt in the middle of the Gobi Desert? In fact, some time ago I introduced a topic that I was sure would generate a great deal of lively discussion among GallyNetters, but it failed miserably to do so. It was about

starting a woman's curling team at Gallaudet. Can't imagine why it didn't inspire any chat, can you?

About your supervisor's stance on participating in GallyNet during work hours and/or using one's Gallaudet email address to do so—hmmmm. On the one hand, Auntie sees great value in this online forum (even though far too much kvetching goes on) and supports the premise on which it was begun. On the other hand, no matter how highfaluting a particular topic may be, or how brilliant one's insights on the matter are, on-the-job GallyNetting is not what any of us are paid to do. It's like shopping online or surfing the Net for the heck of it. Nothing wrong with engaging in either activity—just not on company time.

## ON THE GREEN

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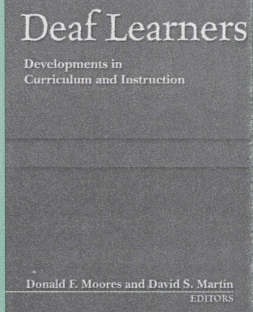
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## Editors to sign new book, 'Deaf Learners'

Dr. Donald Moores, a professor in the Department of Education, and Dr. David Martin, professor emeritus, will autograph copies of their new book, *Deaf Learners: Developments in Curriculum and Instruction*, at Fowler Hall on April 4 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. In this in-depth collection, editors Moores and Martin assembled 17 renowned international scholars to detail a developmental framework for maximizing academic success for deaf students from kindergarten through grade 12. This collection features a thorough analysis of the varied elements necessary to create a successful curriculum, plus chapters on itinerant teachers, assessment, deaf students with multiple disabilities, school-to-work transitions, teaching deaf culture, and more.

Light refreshments will be served at the event, which is sponsored by the Department of Education. Published by Gallaudet University Press, copies of *Deaf Learners* will be available at the signing at a 20 percent discount.

## Clerc Center Happenings

### President Jordan recognizes Clerc Center employees' outstanding contributions to Campus Community Campaign

By Susan M. Flanigan

**"M**ake Your Head Count" became a theme that spurred many Clerc Center employees to contribute to the 2005 Campus Community Campaign. At the Donors' Breakfast held at the Kellogg Conference Hotel on February 17, President Jordan gave special recognition to the Clerc Center for its 73 percent level of participation and praised Nicole Sutcliffe, manager of reporting and projects, for her coordination of the Clerc Center effort.

"I am pleased, but not surprised at this level of support from Clerc Center teachers and staff," said Clerc Center Dean Katherine Jankowski. "They know that their contributions, both financial and otherwise, make a difference in educational opportunities for students. Their contributions truly count!"

The Clerc Center used a variety of strategies to encourage participation. "This campaign was a Clerc Center-wide effort," said Sutcliffe. "People were really motivated and had creative ideas for how

to make it easy for employees to donate, including two Clerc Center-wide fundraisers—a yard sale for the We Care Fund, which provides financial assistance to KDES and MSSD families in need, and a Katrina fundraiser to purchase books for hurricane victims in Louisiana and Texas. Once people became aware of the impact of their donations for our students and for the University, the participation level started to take off."

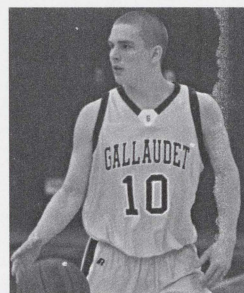
Not to rest on its laurels, the Clerc Center has already begun fundraising for 2006. The Stephanie Joyner Scholarship Fund luncheon and sale fundraiser held on February 3 raised \$2,089. Named in memory of Joyner, who was an audio/video production specialist for the Clerc Center, the fund committee annually awards a scholarship to a deserving senior graduating from MSSD. "With the Joyner fundraiser we already have close to 30 percent participation, and it's only February!" said Sutcliffe. "We look forward to another great campaign this year with the support of even more Clerc Center employees." ■

## Student Affairs

### Gallaudet University Athletics

#### Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team finished 14-12, the best record for the squad since the 1993-94 season. This season also marked the first time in 10 years that the Bison beat crosstown and Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) rival Catholic University, 65-62, on January 26. The season ended in disappointment when a

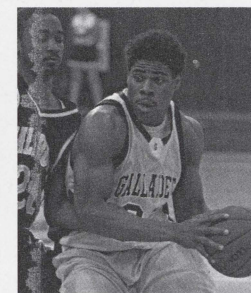


CAC Rookie of the Year,  
Jon Mowl

controversial call in the last seconds of the first round game of the CAC Tournament went against the Bison, which gave the Seagulls a 66-65 win. When the CAC announced its postseason awards, Gallaudet stole the show with Jon Mowl getting Rookie of the Year, Robert Haney, Jr. getting Player of the Year, and Coach James DeStefano getting Coach of the Year—the second time that he has received this award.

Mowl finished the year averaging 9.9 points per game (21st in CAC), second in the conference with 108 assists, 44 3-point field goal made (12th in CAC), 53 steals, and a .418 field goal percentage.

Haney wrapped up his collegiate career by moving up to second on the All-Time Leading Scorer's List in Gallaudet's history, and being named a member of the CAC All-Conference Team. Haney fin-



CAC Player of the Year,  
Robert Haney, Jr.

ished the season averaging 19.4 points per game (fourth in CAC), leading the conference with 212 rebounds, having 58 steals (first in CAC), 24 blocked shots (sixth in CAC), and averaging 31 minutes per game.

Coach DeStefano led the Bison to their best record in 13 years, their first 10-win season in 12 years.

#### Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team had a disappointing season, going 3-26 overall and 0-13 in the CAC. The Lady Bison entered the CAC tournament the eighth-seed and took on the nationally ranked, top-seeded Mary Washington. Gallaudet did all it could to fend off the Eagles, but was unsuccessful as UMW toppled the Bison 95-47. The Lady Bison look toward next season, hoping to improve on this year's record.

#### Men's and Women's Swimming

The swim team had a great season that was topped off by stellar individual performances at the CAC Championships. Pacing the men's team was freshman Michael Hubbs, who broke a 33-year team record in the 100 backstroke by going 1:02.07. Hubbs also placed individually in the 100 and 200 breaststroke, and just missed the team record in the 50 freestyle (23.78). In addition, freshman Tyler DeShaw placed individually in two events, the 400 individual medley (IM) (5:30.09) and the 1650 freestyle (21:19), as did sophomore co-captain Scott Madsen in one event, the 200 backstroke (2:30.05). The men's 200 free relay team of Hubbs, DeShaw, Madsen, and sophomore co-captain David Torres also beat conference rival Goucher College, going 1:41.23.

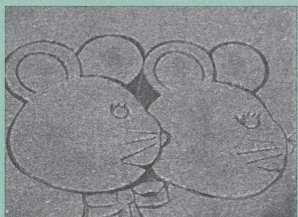
On the women's side, sophomore Kandace Morris paced the Bison, anchoring several impressive relays and placing in her first-ever CAC event, the 200 fly (2:54). Sophomore Julia Velasquez and freshman Angela Cassinelli were similarly brilliant in a number of freestyle events, including the mile (20:40 and 21:10, respectively). Velasquez also did a personal best in the 100 back (1:13.9), leading off the 400 medley relay despite a sore shoulder, while Cassinelli established herself as a rising star in the 100 (1:02.9), 200 (2:15.0), and 500 freestyles (6:07). Sophomore Jessica Mikolay (freestyle and butterfly) and junior Silvia Herdicka (breaststroke) joined Morris, Velasquez, and Cassinelli for five excellent relay swims.

#### Spring Sports

The Gallaudet spring sports are in full swing. Check out the Athletics webpage at [athletics.gallaudet.edu](http://athletics.gallaudet.edu) for up-to-date statistics, schedules, and other information. ■

## Roving Reporter

### April Fool's Day is coming up! What's your favorite prank?



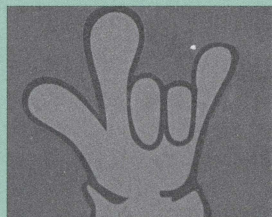
"One time, we hopped in a student's pocket right when he was going into the Cafeteria, and then when he wasn't looking, we jumped onto his tray and played dead. Unfortunately, it kind of backfired because the students decided to give us a funeral, and we had to lie there and keep up the act the whole time!"

Seventy and Sevenie, rats



"I used to enjoy convincing my friends that I had taught my horse commands in sign language. Naturally, they would be dubious and so I would offer a demonstration. I would sign 'eat' and then hold out an apple, which of course the horse would snatch up. They would always be left wondering if the horse understood, or if it was just the tasty piece of fruit that lured him..."

Edward Miner Gallaudet



"My pals and I thought it would be fun to rearrange ourselves into inappropriate and offensive hand shapes. Imagine if all the ILY mugs, shirts, and key chains in the Bookstore were suddenly giving you the finger! You'd be pretty shaken up, I bet!"

ILY hand



"When the grounds crew is not looking, I like to drive into a dorm elevator and roll into the nearest open dorm room. A golf cart is about the last thing a student expects to find in her third-floor room in Carlin Hall!"

Golf cart



## Campus Calendar

### March

**31**—Feedback sessions on Action Plans for University Strategic Goals 1 & 5 related to diversity, SAC G Area, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

### April

**3**—PFLAG meeting, SAC 1211, 7:30-9 p.m.

**5**—"The Allen Sisters Pictorial Photographers 1885-1920" lecture by Suzanne Flynt, curator of Memorial Hall Museum in Deerfield, Mass., KCH Swindells Auditorium, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; GRI First Wednesday Research Seminar: "Parental attachment representations and child attachment, self-concept, and adjustment in hearing families with deaf children," by Patrick Brice and Talibah Buchanan, SAC 1011, 12-1 p.m.

**6**—National Alcohol Screening Day, SUB Multipurpose Room, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Oral historian Lani Silver presentation, Foster Auditorium, 12-1 p.m.; "Deaf Eyes: The Allen Sisters Pictorial Photography 1885-1920" lecture by Dr. Brenda Brueggemann, KCH Swindells Auditorium, 1-2:30 p.m.

**7**—Charter Day presentations, "Dancing to the Winds" by Dr. Gertrude Scott Galloway, '51 & Ph.D.-'93, Foster Auditorium, 12-1 p.m.; "I Shall Not be Moved...Reaching Zenith," by Ann Marie 'Jade' Bryan, Foster Auditorium, 2-3 p.m.

**7-9**—Rockfest 2006

**8**—37th Annual Charter Day Brunch and Awards Program, KCH, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**14**—Undergraduate open house, various locations, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

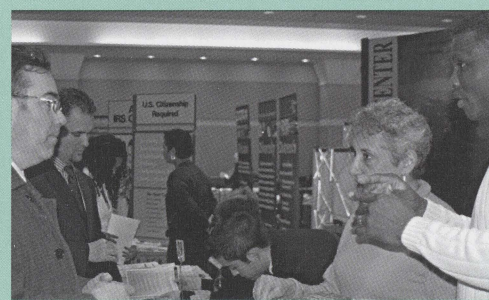
### Tannen lecture

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up a "metamessage"—a judgment of them as an individual. From a daughter's point of view, the person she most wants to gain acceptance from and to be viewed as perfect—her mother—is the one who is most likely to point out her faults. However, the mother doesn't view herself as casting blame, only offering advice to someone she loves. The fact is that mothers and daughters give each other the same type of intense scrutiny they reserve

for themselves—in a sense, they look at each other as mirror images.

In summary, Tannen said that for mothers and daughters to understand each other they must realize that their messages are a mix of caring and criticism. The key to not being angry or hurt is to know that the other has good intentions. "Frustrations are inherent between two people who are close and love each other, but if we understand the process of communication, then we have the tools to make it word and have the best of conversations and, hopefully, fewer, if not all, will be the worst." ■



The Career Center hosted an Internship and Job Fair at the Kellogg Conference Hotel on March 7. Thirty-four employers attended to meet and talk with students and alumni. Pictured here, Veda Engel of the U.S. Department of State explains the language requirements for employees to accounting major Thomas Hauser (left). (Also pictured is Jeffrey Bowden, interpreter for the Department of State.)

### Johnson Reagon to speak in IKJ Lecture Series

*continued from page 1*

Among the many awards Johnson Reagon has received for her work as a scholar in African American culture and history are a MacArthur Fellowship, the Heinz Award for the Arts and Humanities, and the Presidential Medal for contributions to public understanding of the humanities.

Anyone needing close vision interpreting for Johnson Reagon's lecture should

contact [audrey.young@gallaudet.edu](mailto:audrey.young@gallaudet.edu).

Gallaudet established the I. King Jordan Lecture Series to honor President Jordan's many years of distinguished service at the University. One of the hallmarks of Dr. Jordan's presidency has been his commitment to academic excellence. In recognition of his leadership in achieving excellence, speakers who have made outstanding contributions in their fields are being invited to address the Gallaudet community throughout this year. Local, national, and international scholars and leaders—including those from Gallaudet—are part of this series. ■

### Gallaudet Fact—

**A:** The first women to attend Gallaudet lived in House One. When the University began admitting women in 1887, the female students inhabited the upper floors of the residence.

### DPN panel

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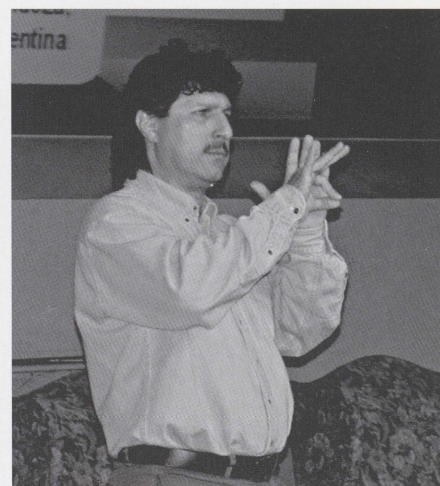
ized the students were serious. Andersson said he supported the students' demands for a dramatic shift. He himself has caused some shifts, becoming the first deaf president of the World Federation of the Deaf and the first person to present to the UN General Council using sign language.

Barnartt began the panelists' remarks with her presentation, "An End to Passivity: Deaf People Protesting Around the World, 1970-2004," in which she shared research on the number and nature of deaf-related protests before and after DPN. Barnartt concluded that although protests had occurred around the world before that fateful week in March 1988, their nature and frequency changed from then on. After 1988, she found, American protesters were more likely to focus on better education for deaf people. The incidence of disruptive actions increased both in the U.S. and abroad, although non-American protests were more likely to focus on issues such as sign language than were American protests.

De Clerck, who is conducting research at Gallaudet as part of her Ph.D. studies at Ghent University in Belgium, was the next to present. Her focus was "Deaf Empowerment in Belgium and the Influence of DPN Spirit on Flemish Deaf People." De Clerck described how a Flemish group's 1994 visit to Gallaudet resulted in a major turning point in the life of deaf people in Belgium, whose home country did not recognize sign as a valid language and did not provide services like captioned television. When the group saw a signing, deaf-centered environment at Gallaudet, they had what De Clerck calls a "wake-up moment." They suddenly discovered that they could expect more, achieve more, and be proud of who they were. As one visitor from the group commented, "If they can do it, then I can do it, too."

When the group returned to Belgium, they put their inspiration to work. Thanks to Gallaudet's example, many Flemish deaf organizations now enjoy deaf leadership, some Flemish deaf schools have established Flemish Sign Language programs, and the Belgian Parliament is expected to accept Flemish sign as an official language.

For the third presentation, "Empowering Deaf Communities in Latin America," Berdichevsky began with an admission: "When DPN occurred, I had never met a deaf person in my life."



Alvaro Jimenez

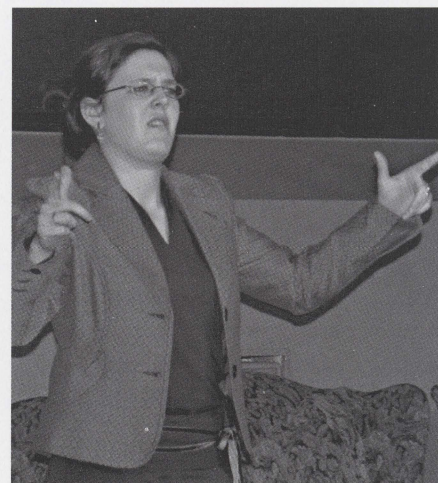
Now, after what she calls "a lot of catching up," she has developed a groundbreaking opportunity to spread the spirit of DPN through a program called International Deaf Partnerships. Through the program, which Berdichevsky describes as "a deaf-friendly version of the Peace Corps," undergraduate students from any major with basic proficiency in written Spanish and in the signed languages of Argentina, Costa Rica, or Mexico spend a summer or a semester working with the deaf community in that country. The program has been commended for promoting leadership in action within the American and the Latin American deaf communities. It was clear that the spirit of DPN lives in the work of people like Berdichevsky who are committed to human rights for all.

Finally, Jimenez told the story of an unusually eventful internship in Argentina in his presentation, "Si, podemos!/Yes, we can! Promoting LSA (Argentine Sign Language) and the Success of Deaf People in Argentina." Jimenez started his internship teaching Spanish, LSA, and ASL at a deaf school. The work presented many challenges, including poor resources and teachers who insisted on deaf students only speaking. "When students stood up, just about anywhere, they had to put their hands behind their backs," Jimenez recalled.

Seeing the frustration of the deaf community, Jimenez asked his host family to introduce him to political figures. When they met him, the officials were amazed to see such an educated deaf man. They were further astonished when they learned there are many like Jimenez in the U.S. and that there is even a deaf university president.

In the next months, Jimenez gathered signatures for a petition to recognize LSA as a language. In Argentina, legitimizing deaf people's language was an important goal of the community. Legislators wrote a bill to this effect and finally, on June 29, 2005, the measure passed. Afterward, Jimenez held what was probably the first signed press conference in Argentine history.

President Jordan offered closing remarks about the presentations that showed great leadership and pride in the deaf community after DPN. Jordan credited these achievements not just to the movement that marked the beginning of his presidency, but to the University itself. "This is a powerful example of how Gallaudet's influence is worldwide," he said. ■



Goedele De Clerck